

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of March 20, 2008 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,009,466 ("**Axberg**").

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended.

Applicants believe the pending claims are not disclosed by **Axberg** and respectfully request reconsideration.

As stated in the Specification, Applicants' invention is for the purpose of permitting visualization or illustration of system connections between an object computer and a storage system without the use of an agent program at the object computer, since the use of an agent program can lead to operational deterioration and increased cost (Specification, page 2, line 12 through page 4, line 2).

Accordingly, in the embodiment of amended claim 1, there is recited a storage system that comprises a computer management system having an object computer, a storage system and a management computer, where the storage system comprises an acquisition unit for acquiring first connection information and a communication unit for transmitting the first connection information to the management computer, and where the management computer comprises a communication unit for receiving the first connection information and a display "to visualize existing connection relationships between said storage system and object computer, without the use of an agent program in the object computer."

Axberg discloses a storage network 100 having a storage system 101, a host computer 110 (management computer) for managing storage system 101, and host computers 111-113 (object computers) that are connected for storing data in the storage devices of storage system 101 (col. 4, lines 32-41). The Examiner states in the Office Action that the display in **Axberg** (discussed at col. 14 and illustrated in Fig. 12C) is used "to visualize the connection relationships between the storage device and the computer on the basis of said first connection information" (see page 3 of the Remarks).

Applicants point out the display of the management computer (seen in Fig. 3 and Fig. 12C of **Axberg**) is not used to display "existing connecting relationships between the storage system and object computer," as recited in claim 1. Rather, the displayed connection relationships all pertain to planning a storage network, before there are physical connections made, and are not related to data gathering and monitoring of existing connection relationships (see col. 7, lines 15-24; col. 16, lines 30-33). In **Axberg**, the data gathering and monitoring functions that are analogous to the features of Applicants' invention are not performed at the management computer 110, but rather are at the host computers 111-113 (see col. 6, line 66 - col. 7, line 9). In fact, the management computer in **Axberg** (host 110) need not even be connected to the storage system (col. 7, lines 20-24), since it is for planning connections and not for monitoring existing connections.

Applicants point out that the relevant portions of **Axberg** disclose nothing more than the prior art systems that are described in the background of Applicants' Specification (see page 2, line 12 - page 3, line 18), in that the data gathering and monitoring within the system 101 used for gathering data on existing connections and topology are, in fact, performed at agent programs 431 within the object computers 111-113 (see col. 6, line 66 - col. 7, line 9). Thus, **Axberg** simply discloses and has the disadvantages of the prior art described in the Specification.

For the forgoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that **Axberg** does not disclose the recited features of claim 1, and claim 1 (as well as independent claim 8 which recites similar subject matter) is allowable over **Axberg**.

Dependent claims 2-7 each recite limitations in addition to those of claim 1, and are thus believed allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/618,433
Amdt. dated June 10, 2008
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2008

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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